

IN-THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

Claims Amendments

1. (Currently Amended) A ski binding or a snowboard binding having boot holder components on the front or toe end and on the rear or heel end for securing a boot on a ski or a snowboard, the ski or snowboard having a guide apparatus extending in the longitudinal direction of the ski, comprising:

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said boot holder components form-fittingly connected[, detachably in the vertical direction in a fixed manner,] to the guide apparatus, said boot holder components fixed on the guide apparatus in the vertical direction and detachable from the guide apparatus in the horizontal direction.

a holding device arranged between the boot holder components and secured on the ski or snowboard, and

connection elements connecting the guide apparatus to the holding device.

2. (Previously Amended) A binding according to claim 1, wherein the guide apparatus secures the holding device.

3. (Previously Amended) A binding according to claim 1, wherein the holding device is at least partially integrated into the ski or snowboard.

4. (Previously Amended) A binding according to claim 1, wherein the guide apparatus has segmented rails.

5. (Currently Amended) A ski binding or snowboard binding having boot holder components on the front or toe end and on the rear or heel end for securing a boot on a ski or a snowboard, the ski

or snowboard having a guide apparatus extending in the longitudinal direction of the ski, comprising:

 said boot holder components form-fittingly connected[, detachably in the vertical direction in a fixed manner,] to the guide apparatus, said boot holder components fixed on the guide apparatus in the vertical direction and detachable from the guide apparatus in the horizontal direction,

 a holding device arranged between the boot holder components and secured on the ski or snowboard, and

 said boot holder components coupled in the longitudinal direction of the guide apparatus to said holding device, and

 connection elements adjustable against further toe-to-heel movement of the connection elements connecting the guide apparatus to the holding device.

6. (Previously Amended) A binding according to claim 5, wherein the connection elements are part of a threaded spindle.

7. (Previously Amended) A binding according to claim 6, wherein the threaded spindle is mounted axially on the holding device and is screwed into parts having an internal screw thread with threaded sections having opposing threads, said parts being arranged in an axially fixed manner in the boot holding components.

8. (Currently Amended) A binding according to claim 5, wherein at least one of the boot holder components [or] and the connection elements [have] has an adjusting device [which has] having an adjusting input operated by a motor-driven tool [such as an electric screwdriver].

9. (Currently Amended) A binding according to claim 1, wherein at least one of the boot holder components [or] and the connection elements [have] has an adjusting device [which has] having an adjusting input operated by a motor-driven tool [such as an electric screwdriver].

10. (Currently Amended) A binding according to claim 1, wherein the [rail] guide apparatus secures

the holding device on a central section of the rail guide.

11. (New) A binding according to claim 8, wherein said motor-driven tool is an electric screwdriver.

12. (New) A binding according to claim 9, wherein said motor-driven tool is an electric screwdriver.

13. (New) A ski binding or snowboard binding having boot holder components on the front or toe end and on the rear or heel end for securing a boot on a ski or a snowboard, the ski or snowboard having a flexible guide apparatus having a front portion, a central portion and a rear portion, said guide apparatus extending in the longitudinal direction of the ski or snowboard, said binding comprising:

a front baseplate for holding a boot holding component and configured for being displaceably mounted on the front portion of said guide apparatus;

a rear base plate configured for being displaceably mounted on the rear portion of said guide apparatus;

a holding apparatus for being fixedly mounted on the central portion of said guide apparatus between said front base plate and said rear base plate; and

structure for displacing said front base plate and said rear base plate longitudinally along the guide apparatus;

said front base plate and said rear base plate flexing in response to the flexing of the ski or snowboard when said base plates are mounted on said guide apparatus.

14. (New) A ski binding or snowboard binding according to claim 13 wherein said structure for displacing said front base plate and said rear base plate is a rotatable spindle configured to move said base plates in opposite directions according to the direction of rotation of said spindle, and wherein said front base plate and said rear base plate are configured to be moved in the longitudinal direction in response to the rotation of said spindle.